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NOTES

ASSOCIATED ACADEMIC PRINCIPALS' CONFERENCE.—The associated academic principals of the State of New York will hold their Fifteenth Holiday Conference at Syracuse, N. Y., on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, Dec. 26–28, 1899. A program of great interest has been provided, the chief topics for discussion being language, history, mathematics, and science. The special committees having charge of the discussion of these several subjects have worked in considerable detail a method of procedure and have formulated well considered and sensible outlines for each meeting. So far as careful planning can insure the success of any conference, the Syracuse meeting raises high expectations. The principals themselves as they gather from all quarters of the Empire state will bring a stock of earnestness, good cheer, and enthusiasm that will make it good to be there. The president this year is Principal D. C. Farr, of Glens Falls, and the secretary, S. Dwight Arms, of the U. S. N. Y. The University Regents and the State Department of Public Instruction will as usual be represented at the meeting.

THE ILLINOIS STATE TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION AND COLLEGE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS.—The following circular has been issued, signed by the Executive Committees of the College Section and High School Section of the Illinois State Teachers' Association:

At a recent meeting of representatives of the High School and College sections of the State Teachers' Association it was decided to modify the conventional program of the Springfield meeting, so far as these two sections are concerned, in the hope of awakening a more active interest. Accordingly, the separate sectional meetings will be abandoned this year, save short business meetings, and two joint conferences of the High School and College sections will be held on Friday, December 29. The evening meeting on the same day has also been turned over to these two sections, and we expect to have an important address by a distinguished speaker. Attention is called to the fact that the special meetings of these two sections are compressed within one day.

The general subject of consideration at the conference will be the report of the Committee of Thirteen at Los Angeles upon "College Entrance Requirements," with the object of making as many of the recommendations of that committee as are approved effective in the institutions of the state. It is expected that one or two of the members of the committee will be present.

This is a matter of much importance to the unification of our educational systems; a full representation is desired from the High Schools, and we request each college in the state to

1. Consider formally the report of the Committee of Thirteen and to send to

Springfield at least one instructed delegate. No binding action can or will be taken, but it is hoped that definite action, in the shape of recommendations may be reached.

2. The colleges are also asked to consider the feasibility of a system of joint accrediting, according to which the certification of some examining board or joint committee may be accepted as satisfactory by all the colleges of the state. It is believed, if a good majority of the delegates are favorable to such action, that a satisfactory plan can be worked out.

A definite program will be sent out about November 20. We hope that the subjects here suggested will engage your immediate attention.

SCIENCE IN THE ENGLISH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.—Professor Meldola, who is a member of the Essex Technical Education Committee, and is largely responsible for the success of the recent policy of that county in developing its secondary schools, takes up in the columns of the *Times*, the controversy initiated by Professor Armstrong and Sir W. Anson as to the "secondary" section of the education department. He approaches it from another point of view, however, and points out with absolute truth the danger to science of the predominance of purely literary men in high places in the government departments. It is notorious that none of the education department's officials or inspectors have any scientific training, and until Mr. Acland, in 1894, appointed his thirteen inspectors, even the science and art department considered it unnecessary for a man to know science in order to inspect a school devoted to that subject. Headmasters of great public schools, and, to an almost equal extent, the second grade headmasters, are men with degrees in classics or mathematics. This, of course, is largely due to the preference for clerics still shown in the highest quarters. The science teaching, as Professor Meldola shows, which has been "imposed from without" and by the city councils on the secondary schools in the last seven years, is very popular with the headmasters. Their reasons are twofold. In the first place, this "imposition" seems a vast endowment of a subject which they themselves do not know and cannot even supervise. Secondly, the science master is paid better than the other masters, and the county council often insists on his selection for intellectual rather than athletic qualifications. But we doubt if this is the real issue at headquarters, and we look further afield for the source of the agitation against Captain Abney.—*The Journal of Education (London)*, September 1899.

THE LATEST issue in the International Modern Language Series (Ginn & Co.) is an edition of selections from Mme. de Sévigné's Letters, edited by James A. Harrison. In these selections this brilliant letter writer is seen at her best, which is very good indeed, and the work, which could not be edited by more competent hands, forms an interesting introduction to the social and literary life of the age of Louis XIV.